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**HUSBAND AND WIFE INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES OF
MAKING AND DISTRIBUTING FALSE DOCUMENTS**

FRESNO, CA – McGregor W. Scott, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California, announced today that a federal grand jury in Fresno returned an indictment against Saul Castro-Arizaga, 44, and Teresa Martinez-Martinez, 39. The seven-count indictment charges the married couple with a conspiracy to produce and sell false identification documents and returning to the United States without permission after their deportations to Mexico.

The indictment alleges that Castro-Arizaga and Martinez-Martinez would meet at their residence at 2386 South Tupman in Fresno with persons interested in purchasing false alien registration receipt cards, social security cards, and California driver licenses. The defendants would negotiate a price and ask the purchasers to return to the residence at a later date. The defendants would then produce the documents at their residence.

The indictment is the result of a four-month-long investigation initiated by the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Special Investigations Unit, working with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Fresno office with assistance from the Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General in Fresno.

According to prior press reports and court documents, Castro-Arizaga and Martinez-Martinez were convicted in 2000 of similar charges, after an eight-month investigation by the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, elements of which now make up part of ICE. That investigation turned up more than 2,700 false document forms which were sold from a van in a mobile operation. Both defendants received 24-month sentences that ended in 2001. They were then deported from the United States. Castro-Arizaga returned illegally to the United States and was convicted in federal court in May of 2002 for an offense related to the possession of false identification documents and illegal entry to the United States. He again was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison. He was again deported to Mexico upon completion of his sentence.

The case is being prosecuted in U.S. District Court in Fresno by Assistant U.S. Attorney David L. Gappa. If convicted of all of the charges in the indictment, the defendants face maximum total prison sentences of up to 90 years and fines of up to \$250,000 for each count. Sentencing is subject to federal guidelines. The charges in the indictment are only accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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